

Appendix table 7-30

Public perceptions of various groups' impartiality in making policy recommendations about public issues: 2006 and 2010

(Percent and mean score)

Public issue/group	2006							2010						
	Extent to which group would support (on scale of 1 to 5)							Extent to which group would support (on scale of 1 to 5)						
	What is best for country				Own narrow interests	Don't know	Mean score	What is best for country				Own narrow interests	Don't know	Mean score
	5	4	3	2	1			5	4	3	2	1		
Global warming														
Environmental scientists	40	27	17	6	6	5	3.9	42	22	18	7	7	4	3.9
Elected officials	9	10	25	24	28	5	2.5	11	10	25	22	28	4	2.5
Business leaders	6	4	22	27	36	5	2.1	6	4	24	27	34	4	2.2
Genetically modified foods														
Medical researchers	34	29	19	7	6	5	3.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Elected officials	6	10	32	25	21	5	2.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Business leaders	2	4	25	32	32	5	2.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Stem cell research														
Medical researchers	32	27	21	9	7	4	3.7	30	28	21	9	7	5	3.7
Elected officials	8	7	32	23	25	5	2.5	6	10	25	26	29	4	2.4
Religious leaders	13	12	22	20	26	6	2.6	9	10	24	24	27	6	2.5
Nuclear power														
Nuclear engineers	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	27	28	22	9	8	6	3.6
Elected officials	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	16	32	22	17	6	2.7
Business leaders	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6	9	28	28	23	6	2.4
Federal income taxes														
Economists	22	30	25	9	8	6	3.5	19	27	28	11	9	6	3.4
Elected officials	8	14	26	24	24	4	2.6	10	11	27	22	24	6	2.6
Business leaders	3	8	24	30	30	4	2.2	5	11	23	29	27	6	2.4

NA = not available, question not asked

NOTES: Responses to *When making policy decisions about [public issue], to what extent do you think [group] would support doing what is best for the country as a whole or what serves their own narrow interests?*

Mean impartiality score based on 5-point scale, where 5 = best for the country and 1 = own narrow interests. In 2006, questions on global warming and stem cell research asked of 928 survey respondents; questions on genetically modified foods and federal income taxes asked of 936 respondents. In 2010, questions on global warming and stem cell research asked of 961 survey respondents; questions on nuclear power and federal income taxes asked of 971 respondents. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2006, 2010).